

# THE BULLETIN . . . OF THE LOUISIANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 5

MARCH, 1942

NUMBER 3

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY AT NEW ORLEANS, LA.

## EDITORIAL STAFF

<b>ROBERT J. USHER</b>	Editor
Librarian, Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, New Orleans, Louisiana	
<b>NANTELE GITTINGER</b>	Assistant Editor, Parish Libraries
Assistant, Louisiana Library Commission, Baton Rouge, Louisiana	
<b>ANNE ELIZABETH GIDDENS</b>	Assistant Editor, Public Libraries
Librarian, Parish Dept., Shreve Memorial Library, Shreveport, La.	
<b>MILDRED HOGAN</b>	Assistant Editor, High School Libraries
Research Librarian, State Department of Education, Baton Rouge, La.	
<b>NATHANIEL STEWART</b>	Assistant Editor, College and University Libraries
Librarian, Dillard University, New Orleans, La.	
<b>EVELYN STUART CORMIER</b>	Assistant Editor, Junior Members Round Table
Librarian, Behrman High School Library, Algiers, La.	
<b>EVELYN PETERS</b>	Advertising Manager
Librarian, Orleans Parish School Board Professional Library, New Orleans, La.	
<b>MRS. ALYCE LYONS BENNETT</b>	Assistant Advertising Manager
Librarian, Commerce Library, La. State University, Baton Rouge, La.	
<b>SISTER MARY REDEMPA</b>	Assistant Editor, Library for Negroes
Librarian Xavier University, New Orleans, La.	

## Two Years of Service

By MARGARET M. REED, Librarian

East Baton Rouge Parish Library

TWO YEARS OF SERVICE is the caption heading the first biennial report of the newly established East Baton Rouge Parish Library; but although 1941 marked the completion of its second full year of service, the library cannot actually consider that its service is limited to this period.

For the parish library was organized to incorporate the former Baton Rouge Public Library which first began its service in 1900. The first library was located on the second floor of the old Fire Station on Church Street and was later moved to the Court House where it had quarters until June 1939. The book collection for a long time consisted of donations from the private libraries of interested townspeople. Public subscriptions from time to time were made to help the library. Finally, in 1920, \$900 was provided by the City Council for maintenance, and in 1937 this was discontinued when the Police Jury provided \$1400 a year for the library.

From time to time civic minded people worked for an increased library appropriation, pointing out to the governing authorities the widespread interest in the community toward an increase of the library service.

In the meantime, starting in 1922, activity went on in the city for the erection of a public library building. A bond issue was voted for the paving of the city streets, and this bond issue included \$20,000 to buy a site and build a library building. In the city fund at this time there was \$35,000, which had grown out of a \$5000 bond issue for the erection of a hospital. The money had been invested in real estate and later sold at a large profit.

In 1929 members of the Baton Rouge Lions Club headed a drive to combine the \$35,000 city hospital fund with the \$20,000 library fund so as to provide an adequate sum for a

public library building. Warren O. Watson drew up the petition to call an election, and then, under the direction of the Lions Club and other business groups, 25% of the qualified property tax voters were contacted to sign the petition. This was duly placed before the city authorities and the election was called.

The result of the election was favorable, but still the building was delayed. When pressed by the ever active bodies of persons interested in the development of library service here, the reply was that there was no fund for maintenance, which was expensive to provide.

Therefore the money remained untouched in the banks until 1937. Compound interest had increased the fund to \$73,000. However, \$13,850 remained "frozen" from the bank depression, leaving \$59,250 available. In 1937 a group of representatives of women's civic clubs went to the city and parish officials to ask that action be taken to obtain a library through federal aid. In 1938 the Police Jury provided \$8,000 for the maintenance of the library to be built with the city bond issue funds. Construction was finally started in 1938, the city allotting \$57,748 and the PWA granting \$47,248 for the project, and in June 1939 the building was accepted by the city. In 1938 due to the fact that the building was not completed, the library appropriation reverted to the general fund, and in 1939 \$9,000 was appropriated for library maintenance.

In June 1939 the Police Jury issued an ordinance which established the East Baton Rouge Parish Public Library and named its Board of Control.

A long and complete service record—with-out a single break in its link, though some of the years were lean and hard—is that of the Joanna Waddill Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy who founded the Baton Rouge Public Library and acted as its Board of Control for 39 years. The librarian was an officer in the chapter and the chapter treasurer acted as treasurer for the library. For many years this organization had worked for public support and control of the library, for its members realized fully how inadequate were their facilities to raise funds to meet the ever growing demands for books

and service. With the completion of the building, the appropriation of funds, and the naming of the Board of Control to govern the library expenditures and policies, the Joanna Waddill Chapter gladly relinquished its control and turned over the book collection and equipment from the Baton Rouge Public Library to the East Baton Rouge Parish Library. The staff of the Baton Rouge Public Library became an integral part of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library.

In June 1939, the Baton Rouge Public Library closed; and three months were spent in reorganizing, sorting books and in the purchase and processing of new books with which to re-open the library. On September 14, 1939 the East Baton Rouge Parish Library was formally opened to the public with a service limited to six hours a day and one book per person. This was soon extended to a full time schedule, but it was not until January 1942 that the limit of books per borrower was raised to four.

The inadequacy of the book collection was obvious to the Board of Control and to the Police Jury, since the library's entire collection numbered 5660 books, which included 2000 books lent by the Louisiana Library Commission. A bond issue was therefore voted by the Police Jury, the money to be derived from the excess revenues for the ten years 1940-1949, and this bond issue included \$25,000 for the Parish Library for the purpose of buying books and equipment. Furthermore, the appropriation for general expenses for 1940 was increased to \$15,000 to cover the costs of ordering and processing the books obtained from the Bond Issue Fund.

In 1941 the Library appropriation for general expenses was retained at \$15,000 because of the increase in activity and the need for additional staff. This appropriation was increased to \$18,500 for 1942 due to a further extension of service and corresponding increase of staff.

The library has been further aided from city library funds which can only be used for books or equipment. Approximately \$7,600 was spent in 1939, and more money will be available when frozen bank assets are liquidated.

The time involved in buying books and adding them to the shelves was a problem which had to be met. The problem was intensified by the fact that the registration of borrowers was so extensive and the policies governing the circulation of the books had to be set and maintained. First, the question of how to purchase the books arose, and the undesirability of listing each book for a bid price was explained to the District Attorney. A plan was then made in which a bid was asked from jobbers, dealers and publishers for the highest discount offered from list price of all or part of the books to be purchased. The advertisement also specified that the orders for books would include "both trade and technical editions, both juvenile and adult titles, in both publishers' bindings and reinforced bindings, the latter to meet class A specifications for book binding as set forth by the joint committee of the American Library Association and the Library Binding Institute." This plan was quite satisfactory. The bids were received and acted upon, and others have been placed through one dealer for the majority of the orders bought from the bond issue fund. The time for placing the orders has been left to the convenience of the librarian, who could therefore arrange the book orders at intervals so that the extension of service out into the parish could continue to develop.

Eight branches have been established during two years. East Baton Rouge Parish being largely rural outside of greater Baton Rouge, and being rather thinly populated, the library has such small branches that they might actually be considered stations. The town hall in Zachary and a day room at the Baton Rouge Air Base house the largest collections outside of the Baton Rouge Branch in the Headquarters Building. Branches are located in a cafe, in a country store, in one school gymnasium, and in the Home Economics Cottage on another school grounds.

The problems and experiences in the reorganization of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library have perhaps been much the same as those in libraries in other parts of the state. In the first place, the red tape governing registration of borrowers met a

storm of protest from men and women who were established residents of the area and who objected to giving a full name or naming a reference or to the necessity of keeping up with the borrowers cards. The staff, inexperienced in handling registration of borrowers, had to learn tact and patience in meeting the public. And yet, because of the construction of the Mississippi River Bridge, the new oil fields, the Airport, and many additions to the Dupont and Standard Oil Companies, great care had to be taken to get enough information at the registration of the borrower to enable the library to locate the borrower in the event of an overdue book.

The next problem was to inform the public that the service of the library was not confined to the circulation of books from its shelves. This again gave responsibility to the staff who had first to learn of the policies governing inter-library loan, service to schools and special groups, book lists, and individual reading guidance, and assistance to study clubs and civic organizations. In addition personal visits were made to business and civic leaders and to school principals. Book talks and library talks were made to civic groups, to home demonstration clubs, to councils of the P. T. A.

But most effective of all was the personal contact in the library with borrowers who ventured hesitatingly to ask for what seemed to them special favors. Increasing numbers of borrowers have been gratified to learn that the increased facilities of the library enabled the staff to offer these favors as a regular service and that the routines of the library have been set up to handle these services promptly and thoroughly.

An attempt at good service is the best advertisement any business concern can have, and having a free service as well caused a tremendous climb in library activity from its first month. The staff in January 1940 consisted of four trained librarians and five clerical assistants. In January 1942 there were seven trained librarians and ten clerical assistants. In January 1940 6916 books were circulated. This figure in January 1942 became 17116. All of the other statistical figures have shown a corresponding increase. In



January 1940 there were 3448 borrowers. In January 1942 there were 12996 borrowers.

Behind these steadily increasing figures showing the use of the library is the obvious fact that the people of the community wanted and needed increased library facilities. In addition direct results have probably been gained through the publicity channels of the library. Under the direction of Mrs. Tillie Schenker book lists have been made and displays have been arranged. She has conducted a library book column in the Sunday MORN-ING ADVOCATE for two years, reviewing books of timely interest and on subjects of importance to certain groups. Radio talks have been made by the librarian, one minute announcements describing the library service have been given over the radio from time to time, and displays of books have been arranged in downtown store windows. The library had a booth at the Parish Fair in 1940, and story hours and puppet shows for children have been effective publicity for the library. The addition of a display case in the library has permitted the showing of art objects, of prize winning soap sculpture, and of flower arrangements with related books from the library's collection.

Activities for defense on the part of the library are centered in its Air Base Branch. Located in a day room at the Air Base it is in the charge of two soldiers trained at the library and under the supervision of the librarian. Their book collection is a general one with an air corps technical section of books provided by the U. S. Army and five hundred non-fiction books loaned by the WPA. The branch library was opened in September 1941 but prior to that time soldiers were given library privileges at the

Baton Rouge Branch.

In addition, one of the chief uses of the library has been by workmen with demands for trade and technical information. It was fortunate in one respect to have a scarcity of books because the purchases were made to comply with the demands and the material was up-to-date and of the degree of complexity asked for. Chief among the demands were those for welding, draftsmanship and blueprint reading, electrical wiring, pipefitting and concrete construction. Later, demands were made for naval architecture, ship building and aviation mechanics.

The defense activities caused one drawback—the delay on the part of the library in extending its service to the negroes. Plans are under way but as yet not completed to have a branch library for negro use. Plans are also contemplated to have a regular schedule of school class visits to the library for the benefit of school children who are handicapped by living at a distance from a branch of the library.

A picture collection was started in the early part of 1941, and 5000 pictures have been mounted. Circulation of these has been delayed until the collection is adequately classified and filed and a circulation routine set up.

The circulation of magazines was begun in the early part of 1941 and the magazines are reinforced with red rope paper to make them wear a long time.

Civic minded people who worked for an enlarged public library, the Joanna Waddill Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy who served the project for so many years, point with pride to their library which in two years of service has shown them that their efforts were justified.

## *The Outlook for College Library Development in Louisiana*

By NATHANIEL STEWART, Librarian  
Dillard University

The testimony of college librarians and deans reflects the picture of future library

development more clearly than a statistical study could in an effort of this type. An "outlook" can hardly be measured in terms of statistical data, and would probably be impractical in these unpredictable days. Observations on the major problems facing college libraries for the next three to five years were made by eighteen head librarians and eleven academic deans of higher institutions in Louisiana, and the body of their testimony is the substance of this study.

A pessimistic note is sounded with respect to the fear of reduced library budget appropriations. This fear is well based, of course, in view of a contracting economy in higher education. The probable decline in revenue through reduced enrollments, restricted gifts, and dwindling philanthropy will doubtless affect college and university library service. Both librarians and deans stress the importance of at least a status quo in library budgets, while some administrative officers of the larger colleges or universities indicate the serious need for increased funds to operate on a year round academic program with curtailed N. Y. A. assistance and added war time functions. The observation is made, too, that favorable salary levels must be maintained to secure a better type of library assistant in our colleges. There are a number of libraries which are still faced with an inadequate book stock or reference collection too weak to carry out educational responsibilities. We have in our midst several infant institutions whose libraries are in the early stages of growth and their development must not be retarded. In short, the outlook is a favorable one if college libraries succeed in maintaining for the few years to follow a library budget equal to that of their current appropriations.

The problem of new library buildings for some institutions will be as acute within the next few years as it has been during most of the decade past. As many as eight institutions indicate serious need for new or reconstructed buildings. However, the outlook for early building construction must be disappointing. Cost of construction will be prohibitive in most cases, skilled labor will be unavailable, and priority rights to essential

materials will continue to be in operation. It is probable, however, that with an American victory we shall witness a huge post-war public works and building program as a measure toward domestic economic readjustment. The problem of new buildings must resolve itself into this statement: librarians and faculty library committees should immediately begin careful study of architectural plans, costs, and other aspects of the proposed buildings, mindful that actual construction will hardly be possible until after the war. New and reconstructed library buildings are a problem of some magnitude and often require several years of study and planning.

Cataloging the resources of libraries is designated as a major problem by librarians of seven institutions. Their problems range from initial cataloging of small collections to a union catalog in the state of Louisiana. In the larger colleges or universities the key problem appears to be need for adequate funds in general while in the smaller institutions it appears to be insufficient staff time devoted to the catalog. The question may become even more serious, indeed, for there is the probability that Library of Congress may limit or abandon some of its cataloging services to libraries. Cataloging and classification of government documents and pamphlet literature will be a matter of increasing significance in such fields as naval and military science, health and safety, chemistry, engineering, housing, and other fields incident to war and post war efforts. The outlook is such that cataloging cannot be divorced from the problem of increase of library staff, for the two are quite interdependent. Yet, the prospect of increased library staff in this contracting economy is not at all bright. We shall probably witness a period of novel experimentation in cataloging procedures and services.

Reevaluation and improvement of the existing book collection is voiced repeatedly by academic deans and college librarians. The extent to which a collection may be reasonably small, yet organic and functional, is a matter apparently under consideration at a number of institutions. Several officers are

currently setting plans for analysis of their book collections as related to departmental or divisional instruction. How much of the collection is dead weight, how much of it can be made more active, how much of it meets the standards of recency or scholarship? It is the object of these institutions to strengthen the weak or neglected units of the book collection and to concentrate upon new fields of interest for the present and the coming college generation. Intelligent book selection through the joint effort of the instructional and library staffs will be the keynote. This is indeed a wholesome venture in times of rising book prices and speculative library appropriations from year to year.

While it is conceivable that reevaluation and improvement of the library book collection to serve the teaching process may be effected with limited funds, the outlook for research collections is not as encouraging. Research, quite apart from teaching, is a basic obligation of the collegiate and university program. It is doubtful that research collections can be augmented or even made serviceable unless financial support is adequate. The replies of two deans focused attention quite sharply upon provision of research facilities and resources for faculty members and advanced students. During the few years to follow college librarians in Louisiana, as elsewhere, may have to buy, borrow, or beg to make provision for research—particularly in the applied sciences and allied fields, economics and business administration, and political science.

The perennial question of faculty-library relationship is set forth once again as a key problem. Letters from librarians of several institutions express the view that unsatisfactory faculty-library relationships often result in student disrespect for library services and curtailment of library activity. Some college systems persist in classing the library staff as clerical personnel. Despite the fact that the head librarian possesses faculty rank and is regarded as one of the important administrative officers, the library staff as a whole is not accorded due recognition or academic respect. Instructors may be well qualified to

teach in certain departments of instruction but many of them are in need of counsel in the sphere of college staff morale, academic respect for colleagues, and appreciation of the role of the library in the modern liberal arts college. It is true that the library must serve the instructional program, but unwholesome faculty attitudes often result in a condition of instruction versus library—a most unhealthy state of affairs. College presidents, deans, librarians, and faculty library committees should be apprised repeatedly of the waste and deficiencies inherent in a pattern of unwholesome faculty-library relations. College administrators who fail "to go to bat" for their library staff take the risk of some day finding themselves with an untrained, inexperienced, exploited library personnel. Perhaps the outlook here can best be expressed in the hope that head librarians will continue to press for recognition and respect for the library staffs of Louisiana colleges and universities.

Among the other significant factors in college development in Louisiana, all of which were well recognized by both deans and head librarians, are: 1) library instruction for the student body, 2) in-service training of library staff members, and 3) departmental libraries. An attempt to indicate problems peculiar to denominational colleges, teacher-training institutions, Negro colleges, junior colleges, and colleges of liberal arts did not mature, since the broad, general problems appeared to prevail throughout the study. The in-service training experiment at the library of Southwestern Louisiana Institute will be worth careful observation, as will be the development of branch and departmental libraries at Louisiana State University if funds are available. Another important point is raised by several of the smaller college libraries—Will it be possible, under the accelerated liberal arts program in the emergency, for the student body to find sufficient leisure time to use the library without detriment to class work? This, in essence, is the outlook and guide to college library thinking in Louisiana for the next three to five years.

## COLLEGE AND REFERENCE LIBRARIES

We hope to make the meeting of the College and Reference Section a most significant one for college and reference librarians in the state, and urge all to attend. While the program has not yet been put into final shape, the tentative program for the College and Reference Section will be as follows:

1. Review of activities of the Section for 1941-32.
2. Consideration of the proposed constitution and by-laws for the College and Reference Section of the L. L. A.
3. Discussion of the Library Section of the Louisiana College Conference.  
Address by Miss S. Metella Williams, Assistant Professor of Library Science, Louisiana State University.
5. "The In-Service Improvement of the College Library Staff"  
Address by Miss Loma Knighten, Librarian, Stephens Memorial Library, Southwestern Louisiana Institute.
6. Informal discussion.
7. Election of officers.

We should be interested in a large attendance as possible, so that librarians may pool their experiences and make provision for the germination of new ideas and concepts. Make this meeting a "must" on your list.

## HILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

James Colvin McDougald, assistant in the order department, is on leave while serving in the Air Corps of the U. S. Army. He is with the 49th A. B. Squadron, stationed at Harding Field, near Baton Rouge.

Mrs. Geraldine M. Johnson has resigned her position in the Reference Department, effective February 1st.

T. N. McMullan, head of the circulation department, has been called to active duty. Lieutenant McMullan is now at Camp Blanding, Florida. Lucile Bauer, formerly assistant in the department, replaces him, with Mrs. Ruby Hanks as assistant.

Margaret Andress has been appointed li-

brarian in charge of dormitory libraries. She replaces Barbara Bell, who has accepted a position with the East Baton Rouge Parish Library.

Ella V. Aldrich and Dorothy Bass attended the A. L. A. Mid-winter meeting in Chicago.

Through purchases made by the Division of Latin American Relations, the stock of books on Latin-American subjects and by Latin-American authors has increased. There are numerous important additions both in the original languages and in translation. Several of the leading newspapers have also been subscribed to, as well as some of the important periodicals in the fields of Sociology, Letters, and other subjects.

## LOYOLA UNIVERSITY

Civilian Morale emphasis is carried out by a permanent pamphlet and book exhibit . . . Miss Janet Riley of L. S. U. Library School recently joined the staff . . . Notable collection of medical books and pamphlets received from the library of Dr. J. D. Bloom, Sr.

## JOHN MCNEESE JUNIOR COLLEGE

After two and a half years present stock of library is 2,500 volumes, 150 bound magazines, 1,500 unbound magazines, and 4,000 government publications . . . Recent exhibit of contemporary artists held through February.

## SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA COLLEGE

Open stack privileges instituted and proved to be quite successful . . . Student body has demonstrated genuine appreciation and use of the open stack system in the library.

## LOUISIANA STATE NORMAL COLLEGE

Library on all out defense basis . . . Eugene Watson appointed first chairman of Library Section of the Louisiana College Conference . . . Library Science Department planning to increase number of course offerings for teacher-librarians from six to twelve hours.



## Louisiana Library Commission

News from the demonstration field is again the highpoint of Commission events for this quarter.

The largest one-parish demonstration library to be established by the Louisiana Library Commission was opened in Alexandria on January 16 when the Rapides demonstration was formally dedicated in the Assembly Room of the new courthouse.

A month later, on February 14, Vermilion taxpayers voted a parish-wide one-mill tax to support their library as a local project. The tax passed with a majority vote of 313 and a property assessment majority of \$765,971.

The passage of the Vermilion tax, and the enthusiastic response already accorded the Rapides library service are notable and welcome examples of the continued support of libraries during times of distress. The importance of libraries as defense measures was brought out on both occasions, in the remarks at the openings of the Rapides headquarters and branch libraries, and also when the Vermilion tax was voted.

Mr. Frank Godchaux, chairman of the state board of education, in urging support of the latter parish's tax, stated: "This library would help us become the kind of people who could win a war. It would help us become the kind of citizen that would make the country prosperous after the war is over. It will make our country worth fighting for and worth paying taxes for . . ."

Miss Mary Mims, rural sociologist with the Louisiana State university agricultural extension division, who was principal speaker at the Rapides opening in Alexandria, emphasized the humanizing effects of the library in solving the problems of the farmer, the business man, the professional man and woman, and the child.

Mr. Robert B. Tudor, president of the Pineville Civic club, who presided at the opening that evening of the Pineville branch, stated: "To preserve our American ideals and our American way of living is as important as preserving and keeping our land and our

boundaries." Mr. H. M. Weathersby, dean and acting president of the Louisiana College, who also spoke in Pineville, said: "What America thinks is important. What America reads is important because we will think as we read. Truth makes free-thinking people. As long as people can read and think freely we will be far removed from dictatorship."

At the opening of the Cheneyville Branch on the following Monday, January 19, Mr. C. H. Downs, principal of the Cheneyville High school and president of the Louisiana Teachers' Association, declared: "A library, more than anything else, will open the minds of our people."

Emphasis on current world problems in the library is even more apparent in the kinds of books which are being borrowed in Rapides. The newest titles on Germany, European conditions and personal war experiences, such as Shirer's "Berlin Diary," Kirkpatrick's "Nazi Germany," "I Saw France Fall" by Chambrun, "Men Around Churchill" by Kraus, Chamberlin's "Japan Over Asia," "Out of the Night" by Valtin and "Trojan Horse in America" by Martin Dies are typical of the volumes which have rapidly left the shelves of the branches and the bookmobile.

Branches have been opened in Pineville, Boyce, Lecompte, Cheneyville and Glenmore, and the bookmobile has begun a route having such a crowded schedule that the original plan of five trips a week, serving each community weekly, has been changed to eight trips on a bi-weekly basis, with some fifty stops.

The Rapides library serves both civilian and military population, and considerable use of the books at Pineville, Glenmora, Lecompte and at the headquarters by the wives and children of officers and soldiers, as well as by the men themselves, has been reported. Expressions of appreciation by the army people for the library have included the remark of the enlisted man at Glenmora that "These books are about the prettiest sight I've seen in Louisiana," and the statement of the of-

ficer's  
touch  
excell

Miss  
Miss J  
of the  
there  
Miss M  
from

In  
Board  
Rouge  
had at  
comm  
M. C  
and M  
the pa  
cal pr  
meeting  
an del  
was of  
sidered

Miss  
mission  
the pa  
the m  
Librar  
as cha  
sided

The  
change  
dine  
demon  
has res  
of the  
Richar  
has re  
her h  
station  
Zingle  
headq  
to Tex

The  
have s  
a succ  
distrib  
ment  
York  
thirtee  
of bo



ficer's wife: "I like the cordial, personal touch in Louisiana libraries and the service is excellent."

Miss Sallie Farrell is Rapides librarian. Miss Jessica Boatner, who served as librarian of the Vermilion demonstration, will remain there with Miss Neddle Roberts as assistant. Miss Mildred Hawthorn has been transferred from Vermilion to Rapides as assistant.

In February, after the Louisiana School Board association conference held in Baton Rouge, parish and regional librarians who had attended the sessions met at the library commission for a conference with Miss Essae M. Culver, commission executive secretary, and Miss Mary Walton Harris, director of the parish and regional department. Technical problems were under discussion at the meeting, and libraries' contributions to civilian defense, a most timely topic these days, was of course one of the main subjects considered.

Miss Culver, Mr. J. O. Modisette, commission chairman, and Miss Jean Mason of the parish and regional department, attended the midwinter conference of the American Library Association in Chicago. Miss Culver, as chairman of the ALA extension board, presided at the meetings of that group.

There have been numbers of personnel changes in the past few months. Miss Bernadine Glaser, who assisted in the Rapides demonstration during the first few weeks, has resigned to accept the position of librarian of the Lake Charles Carnegie library. Mrs. Richard Rorer, the former Thelma Johnson, has resigned from the Bossier Library to join her husband in New Orleans, where he is stationed with marine corps. Mrs. Ervin Ziegler has resigned from the commission headquarters staff, the Zieglers having moved to Texas.

The results of the Victory Book campaign have shown that the drive in Louisiana was a successful one. A total of 16,718 books was distributed from the state and an announcement from the drive headquarters in New York City said that Louisiana was in thirteenth place among the states in number of books collected through February 15.

However, some of the states had just started their V. B. C. campaigns at that time.

## PARISH LIBRARIES

### EAST BATON ROUGE

Books for soldiers, sailors and marines have kept the East Baton Rouge Parish Library busy sorting and packing. Librarians from the Louisiana Library Commission, the University, the Library School, and the schools in the parish assisted the librarians and staff of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library in sorting more than 10,000 books collected from eleven parishes in the district. Collection of books in East Baton Rouge Parish was under the direction of Ella V. Aldrich who named collection centers and who later made arrangements with the Boy Scouts for a house to house canvass. Approximately 5,500 books were collected in the Victory Book Campaign in this parish.

Inter-American relationships have developed further in the parish through a program in the schools of the parish, a program which will integrate the study of South and Central America into all phases of the Social Science curriculum. An attempt is being made by the library to provide the children with reading matter on South America and to meet the needs of the schools for extra curricular material. Other services to the schools have been given to visiting classes who have come during school hours to learn what books are available on their subjects of study.

January, 1942, inaugurated another increase of books circulated per borrower when the number was increased from three to four books. The circulation of 181,570 books during 1941 was conditioned by a limit of 3 books per borrower, and an increase has already been made for 1942 due to the increase in this limit.

At the Harding Air Base Branch, a series of posters were placed in the barracks. Each roster showed a service offered to the soldiers by the library for recreation, education and advancement in the army. Two different rosters were put up each week for five weeks. The publicity greatly increased the circulation.

## LOUISIANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

MONROE—April 16-18

VIRGINIA HOTEL, *Headquarters*  
and location of all meetings

## PROGRAM

## Thursday, April 16

- 9:00 Parish and Regional Pre-Conference Meeting—Cameo Room. Miss Essae M. Culver, Presiding.  
9:00 Pre-Conference meeting on training for school librarians. Room 353. Miss Sue Hefley presiding.  
10:00 Registration. Main lobby.  
2:00 First General Session, Miss Florrinnell Francis, presiding—Cameo Room  
Group singing led by Mr. Dallas Goss, Northeast Junior College  
Welcome, Mayor Harvey H. Benoit  
Response, Miss Alice Dasplit  
President's Message: "Libraries on the Alert," Miss Francis  
Business: W. D. Postell, 2nd Vice-president, presiding  
Minutes  
Committee reports  
Election of officers  
6:30 Barbecue at Hardtimes Plantation, home of Dr. and Mrs. Melville Hunter  
"Cajun" Stories by Blanche Oliver  
Music, Ouachita Parish High School Band, under the direction of Mr. Walter Minnlear

## Friday, April 17

- 8:30 Library School Breakfasts.  
Columbia—Coffee Shop, Mary Rice, chairman  
Illinois—Roof Garden, Mary Clay, presiding  
Walls and Strays—Coffee Shop, Janet Agnew, chairman  
10:00 Second General Session, Miss Essae M. Culver, presiding, Cameo Room.  
"What Price Libraries?" Mrs. H. C. Houghton, Jr., President of Iowa State Library Association.  
Symposium, Reading and Writing in Louisiana, Miss Viola Anderson, leader:  
What the Soldiers in Louisiana are Reading, Beth Skoog, Librarian, Camp Claiborne  
What Louisianians are Reading, Marlon Taylor, Librarian, Winn Parish  
Library  
Louisiana Gives Books, Miss Essae M. Culver, Executive Secretary, La Library Commission.  
Louisiana in Print, Miss Andersen, Reference Librarian, Howard-Tilton Library.  
12:00 Trustees Luncheon, Mrs. Langford, Chairman of Trustees Section, presiding. Roof Garden.  
School Libraries, Miss May Lynn Amiss, presiding.  
Meeting of Trustees immediately following.  
2:00 Sectional Meetings:  
School Libraries, Miss May Lunn Amiss, presiding.  
Guest speaker: Mrs. Frances Clarke Sayers  
College and Reference, Nathaniel Stewart, presiding.  
WPA, Miss Sarah Irwin Jones presiding.  
Public and Regional, Elizabeth Williams, presiding  
Tour of Exhibits in Ball Room  
7:30 Book Dinner, Miss Francis presiding. Roof Garden.  
Introduction of Officers and Guests.  
Venezuelan songs, Miss Cecilia Ospina, Library School, L. S. U.  
Guest author: E. P. O'Donnell  
Piano solo—Miss Zelma Nichols, Ouachita Parish High School  
"Progress in Taste, American Literature between the Two Wars, 1919-1941," Dr. Thomas F. Mayo, Librarian, Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas.

## Saturday, April 18

- 8:30 L. S. U. Library School Breakfast, Miss Louisa Gray presiding. Roof Garden.  
10:00 Third General Session, Miss Sallie Farrell, 1st vice-president, presiding  
"Books and Children in the World Today, Mrs. Francis Clarke Sayers, Superintendent, Work with Children, New York Public Library  
Business: Miss Francis presiding  
Committee reports  
Group singing led by Mr. Goss  
12:00 Junior Members Luncheon, Miss Irma Spillman presiding

## Post-Conference Attractions

- Library tours in chartered buses—Group 1 from 1-3 o'clock  
Group 2 from 2-4 o'clock  
Buses will stop at the home of Dean and Mrs. C. C. Colvert for tea while touring the Northeast Junior College. Joint hostesses for the tea with the Colverts will be the Board of the Ouachita Parish Public Library.  
Boat ride on the Ouachita River in Noe's Ark from 7-10 o'clock. Picnic supper on board.  
Purchase tickets in advance at Registration Desk, as boat load limited.

## Monroe - Convention City

The history of that section of the Ouachita Valley of which Monroe is the center goes back years before the "Louisiana Purchase" when the present site of Monroe was more or less an established point of contact on the banks of the Ouachita river for the fur traders and Indians of the region.

The earliest inhabitants were settlers who probably came up from the French missions along the Mississippi River in the Catahoula and Concordia country. They took up lands on the Ouachita which is pronounced "Wash-i-taw" and derived from the name of a tribe of Indians and means "Silver Water" or "Rippling Water." They called the place "Prairie des Canots" (Prairie of the Canoes), the first organized community.

It was not until 1783 that factual circumstances connected with an organized community can be aligned with names and dates. That year introduced Don Juan Filhoil, founder of Monroe and West Monroe. Filhoil was a French soldier of noble blood, possessed of the true pioneer spirit, great courage and a capacity for civic accomplishment. In the year 1783 Filhoil was assigned to duty at the post of Ouachita under instructions from Don Estaven Miro. Filhoil, his bride, Françoise Poiret, member of a prominent Opelousas family, and his lieutenant, de la Baume, began their journey. The route was entirely by water, a flotilla of batteaux affording the means of transportation. The route was by way of four rivers—the Mississippi, the Red, the Black and the Ouachita rivers. Don Juan selected his estates on both sides of the Ouachita in harmony with the grant he had from the Spanish king.

Filhoil's first few years at the post were devoted to clearing the land and building of permanent homes. It was under his leadership that probably the first prohibition law west of the Mississippi was enacted—June 1, 1792. With his influence a fort was erected and named Fort Miro in honor of Don Estaven Miro, the Spanish governor-general at New Orleans.

It was about the time of the building of Fort Miro that a new and important figure appears, who like Filhoil, exercised a great influence on the fortune of Monroe. This was Louis Alexander Breard, an officer of the French navy, who was sent by Napoleon Bonaparte into Louisiana with a commission that had to do with the commercial possibilities of the territory. Breard and Filhoil have many direct descendants living today in Monroe.

Louis Alexander Breard became an associate of Don Juan Filhoil. This association continued through the various transfers between France and Spain which culminated in the purchase of the entire area by the U. S. government in 1803.

Following the conclusion of the Louisiana Purchase, Filhoil decided that Fort Miro should be established as a town. The survey was made by John Filhoil and town plot recorded in 1805, according to information gathered from ancient records.

The change of the name of Fort Miro to Monroe was the outgrowth of an epochal event, the coming of the first steamboat to the little trading post. Legend has it the night following the arrival of the steamer the town gave itself up to hilarious frolic. In the midst of the celebration someone suggested that the name of Fort Miro should be changed to "Monroe," the name of the little river steamer which had been christened in honor of President James Monroe.

Don Juan Filhoil remained commandant until 1800 and died at his plantation home in 1821. Some of Filhoil's very interesting possessions are still preserved by Filhoil's descendants.

The records of the early town do not remain. The period between 1855-1871, when the town achieved the dignity of a city under charter provision, was marked by the experience of the War Between the States. Monroe was the center of activities in recruiting volunteers to serve the Confederate Cause. Many of the Ouachita Valley farmers

under General Beauregard fought in the Battle of Mansfield. Many other Southern patriots joined efforts to relieve Vicksburg from the armies of General Grant.

Monroe suffered as a result of these activities. The public buildings, including the old courthouse were destroyed by fire. Cotton warehouses were despoiled and their contents confiscated by the Union troops.

The third phase of the civic history of Monroe is marked by the adopting of the charter of 1871. Railroad lines began to be projected in North Louisiana in the early sixties, a development that was hindered by the war, but immediately following the close of hostilities the North Louisiana and Texas line was extended into Monroe.

On May 1, 1871, act no. 108 of the legislature session of that year, was approved by Gov. H. C. Warmoth. It is an act to incorporate the city of Monroe, to fix its boundaries, to provide for its government, and create a recorder's court for the same.

Although the charter of 1871 provided for the election of a mayor, it is only since 1874 that official records of the city survive to show the personnel of the chief executive's office.

In 1918 began the fifth phase of the city authority, by which the city came under the commission form of control, voted at a special election for that purpose. Early in 1919 Mayor Downey resigned his post as chief executive and was succeeded by Mayor Arnold Bernstein. He was successively re-elected until his death in 1937, when Harvey H. Benoit became mayor.

Monroe's particular bid for world fame lies in its historically famous gas fields discovered in the fall of 1916. Gas from these fields, which lie to the north and east of the city of Monroe, is piped to many industrial centers of the North and East. The United Carbon Co. and many other carbon black manufacturers located plants in the Monroe gas field, and production of this very essential commodity increased on a great scale until 1928, when the state of Louisiana became the largest carbon black producing center in the world.

Besides these elements in its inherent natural resources it has obtained noteworthy

prominence for its manufacture of kraft paper and paper bags. Paper mills absorb a large part of the timber cut every year in the region. The material goes to the Brown Paper Mill, one of the largest makers of kraft paper in the country. The paper mill is sponsor for the reforestation program that promises to revive an industry which in former years was one of the most important natural resources of the region.

Power in practically unlimited amounts can be secured for manufacturers locating near Monroe from the Louisiana Power and Light Company. This company operates a steam generating plant at Sterlington, Louisiana, some ten miles north of Monroe.

Recently an ammonia plant was located near Monroe. It employs about 400 people.

Monroe once again is a center of defense activities. However, throughout its history it has been noted for its hospitality and welcomes the Louisiana librarians and their guests.

#### THE NEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

The library of the Neville High School is an excellent example of modern school library, with a background of learning and scholarship. Forty years ago, when school libraries in Louisiana were hardly more than a dream, the Monroe City High School had a good library. True it was not organized and administered as a modern library is, but it had the first requisite of a library, books. Many of these books are still in our library and form the nucleus around which our collection was built. Some of these books are collector's items and we are very proud of them. A few of the more interesting titles are: a set of *Niles Weekly Register*, semi-official publication, published in Baltimore during the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Our volumes range from Volume One, published in 1812, to Volume Fifty in 1836. The contemporary accounts of the War of 1812, Jackson's destruction of the Bank of the United States and other affairs of the day, make absorbing reading. We have Volume One, June-November 1850 and six other volumes published prior to 1856 of Harper's Magazine of which we are very proud. A



quaint little book is *The eventful history of the mutiny of the Bounty*, by John Barrow, Esq., published by J. & J. Harper in 1832. It is interesting to compare this account with the one written by Nordoff and Hall exactly a century later. A rare volume which we are happy to possess is *An Atlas to accompany the official records of the Union and Confederate armies*, published by the Government Printing Office in 1891. We have many more interesting books, but space does not allow me to list them. We are always glad to show them to visitors and to have them use the books in the library.

In the fall of 1929 the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and College adopted the first of its regulations in regard to high school libraries. The Monroe City High School complied immediately with the appointment of Miss Sara Neville, a professionally trained librarian, to administer the library procedures, and since that time we have always had a professional librarian in charge. She immediately began organizing the library according to accepted library procedures. When the school moved into the new building, the Neville High School on Forsythe, in the fall of 1931, the library moved into new and spacious quarters. In 1932 after her marriage, Miss Neville resigned. She was succeeded by Miss Margaret Baugh, who served until 1936, when she married and left Monroe. Since 1936 Miss Frances Flanders has served as librarian.

The Neville High School Library is ideally located in the center of the second floor, directly over the entrance. It is a large, light, airy room, beautifully furnished with all steel furniture finished to resemble wood. The library seats 72 pupils at one time. The seating space accommodates 13% of our enrollment, instead of the required 10%. Several attractive pictures and prints hang on the walls. Our library is effectively organized according to modern methods. All the books are accessioned in a permanent record book, and a complete shelf list of cards and an up-to-date and complete card catalog are available. Our charging system is quite efficient. We also have a vertical file containing numerous pictures, pamphlets, clippings and

maps, with a complete index of its contents.

We receive regularly 87 magazines, 3 daily newspapers and 1 weekly newspaper. This material is very popular with the students and aids them in forming a true picture of contemporary life.

Our students are great readers. Our circulation for last year averaged 30 books per pupil. This number only accounts for books taken from the library and does not consider the large amount of reference work done in the library. Our reference collection is excellent. It consists of 485 volumes. This number includes sets of all the standard encyclopedias, as well as numerous special reference books. Other books which we find very useful are our bound periodicals. In this group we have 475 volumes, all of which are indexed in Reader's Guide. They are used extensively in the preparation of themes, especially of those dealing with current topics. Our entire collection at the present time consists of 3605 books. On comparing the distribution of our collection with the standards worked out by Mr. W. C. Eels, who several years ago made a complete study of the secondary school library, we found that our distribution was above the median in each class and that in several classes we nearly reached the top figure given, while our reference collection was larger than the number reported by any school which Mr. Eels studied.

During the fall term of each year our eighth grade students are given an intensive course in the use of the library. This course consists of twelve lessons, taught in the library, by the librarian. We think that this system is much more effective than the one used in other schools, where the lessons are taught in the classroom by the classroom teachers. We feel that the course is a great benefit to our students as it prepares them to use the library effectively all through their high school course, and also prepares them to use college libraries. During the fall of 1940 our graduates made the following grades in the library course given at Northeast Junior College: 16 A's, 14 B's, and 8 C's. We have not yet received the grades for this year. I might also add that in the pre test, on the use of the library, given to all fresh-

men at Northeast Junior College in September 1940, our graduates averaged the highest grades of any school.

Another valuable preparation which we give our children for real life is the vocational training in the mechanical duties of running a library. This year forty freshmen are taking this training. Some of them work all four years of High School, while others will drop out. We always have close to one hundred library assistants each year. The students check books out of the library and slip them when they are returned. They shelve books, straighten the shelves, place the newspapers on the racks, check in the periodicals, place them in covers and file the old issues. When the new books are received by the library, the assistants paste in the pockets and the date due slips and letter and shellac the books. This training makes them more interested in the library, gives them some idea of the features of library work, in case they should like to make it their profession, and makes them better patrons of any library, that they may use later.

An activity in which the Neville High School always cooperates is the practice period for the training of students of LSU Library School. Each year since 1936 we have had a practice student for a period of two weeks. All of these students are now engaged in library work in Louisiana, most of them in school libraries.

The faculty members, librarians and members of the student body extend to all the members of the Louisiana Library Association a cordial invitation to visit our school and our library, when you come to Monroe in April.

#### OUACHITA PARISH HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

The Ouachita Parish High School Library had its beginning in the corner of a room, in what is now the present grammar school building, with one table, several chairs, and an old-fashioned bookcase which contained the total of the library's literary treasure.

In 1901 the 50 or 75 volumes "reposed" on the shelves of this antique (still preserved) in one end of the auditorium. The collection consisted principally of well-thumbed sets of

Thackeray, Dickens, Hugo and Cooper designed to enliven the dull pages of History of English and American Literature. The English teacher was the custodian.

Since 1909 there have been changes in housing and personnel of the library. In 1919 the building was remodeled and eight new rooms were added, one being reserved for a library. The equipment was made up of a few chairs, tables, and a half-dozen sectional bookcases.

In 1926 the library was moved to its present location in the new high school building and is an exceedingly attractive room. At this time there are approximately 1300 volumes from which the library has grown to 8,000 volumes in 1942, an increase of 450 volumes a year. Every department of the school is well supplied with books for its particular field, and there are books for the many interests of the boys and girls. Ouachita Parish High School Library meets State and Southern Association standards and serves approximately 2000 students.

#### ST. MATTHEW'S HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

The history of St. Matthew's library begins with the completion of the new building in 1928. Due to the lack of space there had been only a small classroom collection in the old school, some of which forms the nucleus of the 2500 volumes today.

Naturally with the expense of a new building there was little or no money with which to buy the desired books. Rt. Rev. N. F. Vandegaer was the donor of many valuable sets of reference books some of which are out of print today and cannot be duplicated. Many Monroe families very generously gave books and sets of books.

Rev. J. C. Marsh, then assistant pastor of St. Matthew's Church, devised a system of children's envelopes which produced a source of revenue for the library. The children put their Sunday offering into a small envelope and what was collected in this manner was used for the library. After the departure of Father Marsh this system was discontinued and each student paid, on enrolling in school each fall, a library fee. For the past three or

four years there has, of course, been state aid for the purchase of books.

Originally the library was intended for the members of St. Matthew's congregation as well as for the students. A small membership fee was required of all who wished to borrow books. Upon receipt of the fee a membership card was given entitling the holder to draw books for a stated length of time.

Sister Mary Magdalene, D. C. was the first librarian. The library has always been under the able supervision of one of the Sisters, with student assistants during the hours she could not personally be there.

In the fall of 1940 Miss Catherine Boettcher came to St. Matthew's as librarian and part time teacher. Because of teaching only one or two classes she has been able to devote most of her time to the library.

The collection is now being reclassified and recataloged in keeping with the growth of the collection and a shelf-list is in the making. The catalog was originally an author-title catalog, the cards being written in longhand. As it is being recataloged it is becoming a dictionary catalog.

In the autumn of 1940 the Lions Club and the Business and Professional Women's Club jointly gave \$100.00 to be used for the purchase of Vocational Guidance books. This sum goes in alternate years to Ouachita Parish High School and to St. Matthew's High School, each being permitted to use the books of the other as themes on that subject are written by the students. Last year St. Matthew's purchased sixty-three titles with the \$100.00.

Fourteen magazines and one paper are housed in the library, four being gracious gifts.

Though the library has always struggled for an existence it yielded eighty books for the Victory Book Campaign that it might help in some small way to give pleasure to the boys who are helping to keep the stars and stripes waving over it.

#### NORTHEAST JUNIOR COLLEGE LIBRARY Building

The Northeast Junior College Library is housed in a beautiful two-story fireproof

building costing,—including the equipment and furnishings,—approximately \$125,000. The entire lower floor is finished in native Louisiana wood paneling. The walnut tables and chairs harmonize with the paneling. Attractive draperies, Venetian blinds, and modern lighting fixtures add to the beauty of the reading room, which seats 160 students. The browsing room with panelled fireplace, round tables, and easy chairs is the most inviting section of the library. On the ground floor, behind the spacious lobby, is located stack space for 20,000 books constructed of standard stack steel on two levels. Two offices and a workroom are provided for the technical and professional work of the library staff. In the stacks sixteen cubicles provide private places for individual study. In the library, there has always been the open stack shelf system. On the second floor in the west wing is located a large assembly room designed to seat 225 students in which the classes for "Books and Libraries" are held and other classes. Clubs and groups from the community desiring a meeting place not so large as the College auditorium are permitted to use this assembly room. Along the east wing of the second floor are eighteen faculty offices. A large room above the stacks is now used as the office of the College paper but may be converted into stack space as needed for future growth of the book collection. The downstairs stack space provides ample shelving for the more than 6,000 volumes belonging to the library.

#### HOUSING AND ADMINISTRATION

The library was organized and has been supervised by a trained personnel since its beginning in the second semester of the first session, 1931-32, when the institution was founded as the Ouachita Parish Junior College. It was housed in a large room and two offices on the second floor of the Main building from 1932 to the fall of 1939. Miss Elizabeth Eason, a graduate of the Peabody Library School, was the first college librarian and selected with the aid of the first faculty, the original book collection. No drive to secure gift books was held with the result that the college library began with a limited but up-to-date collection of newly purchased



volumes adapted to the curriculum and needs of a junior college. She served for one year, resigning after her marriage to Mr. Bernard Biedenharn of Monroe. She was succeeded

by Miss Mary Clay, a graduate of the University of Illinois Library School, who served as librarian and instructor in library science for the four semester hours of work required for the teacher-training course offered at the Ouachita Parish Junior College in 1932-33 and 1933-34. During this period a Library Club was first organized and students from the Library Science classes did practical work in the Library. The first extensive Book Week celebration in Monroe was held in the College Library in the fall of 1933 under the direction of Miss Clay. The book collection was checked with standard book selection guides in the junior college field and a list of 1500 recommended and suitable titles selected for purchase by the librarian and the faculty during the spring of 1934. Upon Miss Clay's resignation in the summer of 1934 to accept a position in Texas, Miss Sue Hefley was appointed librarian and has had the distinction of serving as librarian for the longest period, remaining six years until the fall of 1940 when she resigned to accept her present position in Baton Rouge. Upon the initiation of Miss Hefley a collection of records was added to the Library and circulated as books. Miss Hefley was also instrumental in Securing the Carnegie Music Set for the Northeast Junior College. This set was housed in the Library building under the supervision of the librarian until the scarcity of classroom space for the new defense courses in the spring of 1942 necessitated the removal of the Music Set to the music department in the Fine Arts building. It was during her term as librarian that Dean Colvert secured WPA and LSU funds which made possible the erection of a separate library in 1939. The new building was an inducement to Miss Clay to return to her former position in Monroe, after the resignation of Miss Hefley in the fall of 1940. With the cooperation of Dean Colvert and the LSU officials, the book and periodical budget for the current year was significantly enlarged. As a result of the recent survey of the holdings of the Library on the Southern

Association check lists of standard reference books and periodicals, special purchases were made in these fields so that the Northeast Junior College Library now ranks as superior in quantity and the quality of periodicals (170) and in basic reference books judged by national as well as regional scoring lists. Regular and special exhibits and reading guidance conferences are planned to encourage general reading. A system for keeping individual reading records was installed during the present year. Immediately upon the entrance of the United States into the War in December 1941, Miss Clay began organizing a Civilian Defense Information Center which has been recognized by the United States Office of Education as an Official Information Center. Books, pamphlets, special defense periodicals, government publications, and posters have been assembled on separate shelves in the reading room for use of citizens of Northeast Louisiana as well as the college community.

#### LIBRARY ASSISTANTS

Following her graduation from the LSU Library school, Mrs. Lillian Herron Williamson, who had previously served for seventeen years as librarian of the Monroe Public Library, was appointed as the first assistant librarian during the 1938-39 session and also served as instructor in the one-hour course in "Books and Libraries" required of LSU freshmen. Mrs. Williamson's untimely death in the summer of 1939 was a loss to the library movement in Louisiana as she contributed generously of her energy in working for parish library development and served as president of the Louisiana Library Association. In the spring of 1941, the husband of the late Mrs. Williamson and Dr. Paul Herron, her brother, set up the Lillian Herron Williamson Scholarships as a memorial to her interest in the library profession. Miss Dorothy Duncan was selected from the freshman class of 1941 at the Northeast Junior College by the Library Committee as the recipient of the \$45 award for tuition fees and textbooks at the Northeast Junior College for the 1941-42 session and the other award went to Miss Nan Drew, a member of the graduating class of the Ouachita Parish High



School. Additional awards will be made each year as memorials to this former assistant librarian. After the death of Mrs. Williamson, Miss Louise Gray of Monroe was appointed as her successor as assistant librarian and instructor in "Books and Libraries." Miss Gray graduated from LSU Library School in June 1937 and then accepted a position as member of the Louisiana Library Commission staff in the Tri-Parish Library. Miss Gray resigned in September 1939 to accept her present position at the Northeast Junior College. Miss Gray serves as co-sponsor of Phi Theta Kappa, the honorary scholastic society for junior college students. In the fall of 1941 Miss Dorothy Flanagan of Monroe, who has a master's degree in an academic subject, undergraduate courses in library science, and previous college library experience was appointed as a library clerk and office assistant. During the ten years of the existence of the College library student assistants have played an important part in the service of the library to the college community.

#### OUACHITA PARISH PUBLIC LIBRARY

The first public library in Monroe was opened on May 8, 1916 in a dilapidated one-room building which had for a long time been used as a coal house and storage room. The library, with 731 books on the shelves and an income of \$50 per month, had as its first librarian Miss Alice R. D. Gillam, a graduate of the Carnegie Library School of Pittsburg. In December 1916, Miss Gillam resigned and was succeeded by Miss Edith Gunby who remained in charge until her resignation in April, 1917. At that time Mrs. Lillian Herron Mitchell (who later became Mrs. Fred Williamson) was appointed librarian, with Miss Felicie Hardell as assistant librarian. Both served the library faithfully for over fifteen years.

The library was then governed by an Executive Board of ten ladies, under the chairmanship of Mrs. J. E. Doughtrie, Mrs. Sam Kaplan served as Secretary and Treasurer for six years, and Mrs. Jessie Sadler succeeded her.

Even though the collection of books soon outgrew the little building on Wood, the library was forced to remain there until January 28, 1921.

In 1920, Mrs. Anna Meyer died, bequeathing her home on the corner of Jackson and Galypso streets for a library. There was also an income from the estate which the library received for about ten years.

From 1933 to 1940 Mrs. Edith Townes and Mrs. Wood Brown served as acting-librarians with Mr. Thomas Gilhula as assistant librarian.

In September 1940 the Monroe Public Library was organized under a charter of the police jury of Ouachita Parish and the cities of Monroe and West Monroe, and financed through the three jointly. The name was then changed to the Ouachita Parish Public Library.

At this time Miss Frances Michie, a graduate of the library school of LSU, became the first trained librarian. From 1940 to February 1941 Mrs. Lorene Crawford, Miss Kathryn Wagnow and Miss Irma Jane Matthews, all untrained workers, have served as assistants.

In October 1941 the cherished dream of a few civic-spirited citizens of West Monroe became a reality when a branch of the Ouachita Parish Public Library opened its doors to the public. The branch library was made possible due to the untiring efforts of the members of the Civic League, as well as all clubs and organizations of West Monroe. Mrs. Mitchell Barry, a former WPA worker at the Monroe Library, was named custodian-in-charge.

Librarians who attend the Louisiana Library Convention in Monroe are invited to visit the libraries.

---

---

---

Miss Florrinnell Francis, president announces appointment of additional committee members as follows:

*State aid committee*

Bess Vaughan, chairman  
John Hall Jacobs  
Bernadine Glaser

*Nomination committee*

Loma Knighten, chairman  
Mrs. Kathryn Williams Moore  
Bess Vaughan

*Legislative Committee*

J. O. Modisette

*Membership committee*

Janet Riley. (This appointment is an addition to committee members previously announced.)

### HOW CAN WE?

Suppose we had conscription for American Library Association membership. How would each of us be classified? Who would fall into the A class of draftees? The only answer is the Individual Librarian. Rank and salary should number us within Class A, even though the graduated dues scale automatically takes care of the salary question to an extent. Would Libraries as institutional members qualify for Class B? Trustees for Class C? Library School Students for Class D? And the great untouched list of Others for Class E?

Can a bachelor with no dependents suggest that his neighbor with five dependents go to war? How can we, as Individual Librarians, suggest recruiting members even among Trustees, much less outside the profession, unless we accept the A classification in terms of paying annual dues? In 1-A should go the librarians of high administrative rank with commensurate salaries, yet more than one person on the membership committee reports that the higher the salary bracket, the more difficult the dues collection is. (I am told that, as a class, the Well-To-Do are credit problems everywhere!)

Granting that the laws of some states prohibit Institutional Membership, there are scores of libraries without such a handicap not found in Class B. How can we expect Class C to be filled with Trustees if the administrative heads and their libraries are not members of the A. L. A.?

Whether Library School Faculties should be 2-A or 3- or 4-A, they certainly rank high from salary and position. An inquiry into the matter results in the query, "How can we expect or even encourage library school students to support a professional organization during their training period if those guiding their training are not supporting it? I say we cannot.

The American Library Association deserves greater membership support, but we as Individual Librarians must accept the responsibility of Class A before the other classes of draftees are called. Probably the analysis of Individual Members should penetrate into the Divisional groups. Some states report a long-standing weakness in membership among school librarians. The plea revolves around dual obligation to professional educational organizations and to professional library organizations. Another factor is the advantage of the former's being on the ground floor. What is the answer?

Another penetration could be on a geographical basis. Metropolitan areas complain of the endless chain of dues to numerous related organizations—state library association, city library club, staff association, functional divisions, and educational associations—while the areas "way out yonder from nowhere" complain that they are too far to receive any benefit from professional organizations. Again, what is the answer?

The country is responding to voluntary conscription for Civilian Defense. Will librarians respond to voluntary membership conscription in Class 1-A? If not, should we expect Classes B, C, and D to respond? How can we?

Ella V. Aldrich, *Chairman*

*La. Committee, ALA Membership*

## Louisiana in Print

Recent references on Louisiana or by Louisiana authors, including books of importance locally printed, by Marguerite D. Renshaw, Reference Librarian, Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, New Orleans.

DELANGLEZ, JEAN—Hennepin's Description of Louisiana. 164p. Chicago, Institute of Jesuit History, 1941.

DUPUY, RICHARD E. AND CARTER, HODDING—Civilian defense of the United States. 308p. N. Y., Farrar & Rinehart, 1942.

HUBERT-ROBERT, REGINE—L'Histoire merveilleuse de la Louisiane française. 347p. N. Y., Editions de la Maison française, inc. 1941?

KERNAN, W. F.—Defense will not win the war. 193p. N. Y., Little, Brown, 1942.

LAUGHLIN, JAMES, ed.—New directions in prose and poetry 1942. 729p. N. Y., New Directions, 1942. (New Orleans photographs.)

LEBRETON, D. R. AND USHER, E. W.—A Tour of the Garden district. (Illustrated by Marcelle Péret.) 31p. New Orleans, 1942.

L'ATHENEE LOUISIANAIS Comptes-rendus. 55p. Nouvelle Orleans, Siege Social, 1023 Harding Drive, 1941.

LOUISIANA. ATTORNEY GENERAL—Statistical report, Jan.-June 1941.

LOUISIANA. HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY—Vieux Carre squares, 2nd municipal district, New Orleans, La. (typewrit-

ten) N. O., 1941.

LOUISIANA. HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY—Directory of churches and religious organizations in New Orleans. (mimeographed) N. O., Historical records survey, 1941.

LOUISIANA. HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY—Inventory of the church and synagogue archives of Louisiana. (mimeographed) N. O., Historical records survey, 1941.

LOUISIANA. HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY—Inventory of the municipal archives of Louisiana. (mimeographed) N. O. Historical records survey, 1941.

LOUISIANA. HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY—Inventory of parish archives. no. 55: Terrebonne parish. (mimeographed) N. O., Historical records survey, 1941.

LOUISIANA. HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY—Inventory of the state archives of Louisiana. Series 2, nos. 2 and 3 and series 3 no. 2. (mimeographed) N. Y., Historical records survey, 1941.

LOUISIANA. HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY—Transcriptions of parish records. no. 5, vols. 11, 13 Avoyelles Parish. no. 24, vols. St. Bernard Parish.

10, 11, Jefferson Parish. no. 44, vols. 1-3, NEW ORLEANS. BOARD OF LIQUIDATION OF THE CITY DEBT—Semi-annual statement . . . Dec. 31, 1941.

RIPLEY, CLEMENTS—Mississippi Belle. N. Y., Appleton, 1942. (New Orleans in fiction.)

## The Fifth Convention of the Inter-American Bibliographical and Library Association, Washington, D.C.

The Inter-American Bibliographical and Library Association, founded in Washington, D. C., May 22, 1930, for the purpose of promoting inter-American bibliographical work by means of cooperation with bibliographical organizations, bibliographical experts, libraries and other related agencies; and of leading assistance in research work on subjects relating thereto.

This society has a 2-fold active program—that of publishing and that of holding annual conventions. This year it held its fifth annual convention in Washington, D. C., February 20-21. The program of the annual conventions is divided into three distinct sections: libraries, archives, and bibliography.

An excellent suggestion was advanced in the archives section: that a guide to United States

materials in Latin American archives be compiled, the work to be done by Latin American scholars of the United States, and that a guide to Latin American materials in library and archival agencies in the United States be compiled, the work to be done by Latin Americans. In the bibliographical section discussion centered around problems relative to cut-throat competition, desiderata of bibliographies, cooperation between bibliographical agencies in the Americas, and expansion of Latin American publishers' lists.

The library section presided over by the undersigned, covered recent inter-American library activities. Topics presented pertained to the paucity of books in English by Latin American authors, implying the great need for a translations' program to provide books to the now awakened American public with respect to Latin America; a description of libraries in the Argentine; a resumé of technological literature produced in the Latin American countries, showing an abundance of material practically unknown to the American investigator; the three-year and extremely active program, just terminated, of the Committee on Library Cooperation with Latin America of the American Library Association; and the working of the inter-institutional cooperative plan among Duke, North Carolina, and Tulane universities, with respect to the purchase of books in the Latin American field.

Cognizance, among other cultural agencies in Latin America, was given to the newly created National Library of the Republic of Panama, established by presidential decree, February 2, 1942.

Arthur E. Gropp, *Librarian*  
*Middle American Research Institute*  
*Tulane University of Louisiana*

*Compliments of the*

## **WOMAN'S SHOP**

MISS ALICE HENRY  
 BELLA SCHERCK DAVIDSON

ABE GOLD,  
 Mgr. Shoe Dept.



**102 De Siard Street**

**Monroe, Louisiana**

**Charles F. Heartman**

*The Book Farm,*  
*Hattiesburg, Mississippi*

AMERICANA, PRINTED AND IN  
 MANUSCRIPT

## **LIBRARY BINDING**

Done Economically by Skilled Workers in our Modern Bindery

Wide choice of Materials and Styles of Binding

Prompt Service

Write for Samples and Quotations

**Dameron-Pierson Co., Ltd.**

400 CAMP STREET

NEW ORLEANS



HE

n

Vol